

February 27, 1990

San Joaquin County Planning Commission
Stockton, California

Dear Sirs:

My conclusion, ~~after~~ reviewing Division 15: Natural Resources Regulations (proposed), ~~is~~ that such regulations violate our American heritage of private ownership, and there is neither need nor basis for such public involvement in the Mokelumne River area of our county.

The assumption that a "Review Authority" should be allowed to supercede the private owner on his land relative to tree removal, replanting (including security bonding), land grading, irrigating and even fencing requirements is reprehensible,

Even the assumptions relative to natural habitat and endangered species should be re-evaluated in a common sense manner as it applies to the privately owned lands along the Mokelumne River.

For the benefit of the Planning Commission and staff, I believe I can express this attitude with authority inasmuch as my position as the former manager of the Northern San Joaquin County Mosquito Abatement District uniquely places me in a position to present the following:

1. The Mokelumne River is a classic example of a meandering stream which overflowed extensive areas during flood periods prior to the construction of upstream dams, making these lands inaccessible and unusable.

2. With the construction of Pardee and Camanche dams, the maximum controlled release flows were limited to 5,000 c.f.s., thereby creating extensive usable private riverbottom lands by removal of the jungle growth over hundreds of acres extending from Lockeford to Thornton.

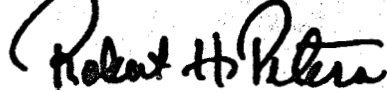
3. Because these jungle areas were the source of a horrendous mosquito population which prevented the human population from living and farming adjacent to the river, our Mosquito District was formed in 1945 and for more than 20 years carried on a cooperative land reclamation program utilizing heavy equipment rented to the private landowner on a cost basis, along with the taxed program.

4. Although our future concerns for natural habitat and endangered species deserve consideration, I cannot over-emphasize that since planning seeks to improve our quality of life, the most important of all "endangered species" is the Mokelumne riverbottom mosquito (*Aedes vexans*) which hopefully is no longer a concern along the Mokelumne River.

Consequently, I can only conclude that the private landowners along the Mokelumne assumed a voluntary cooperative action of major proportion in the past, and certainly do not need a costly and unnecessary review authority on their lands in the future.

In our tomorrow, let's police our criminals, not our tax-supporting citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent.

Robert H. Peters
3290 E. Woodbridge Road
Acampo, CA 95220

cc: Supervisor Barber
Los Angeles City Council
San Joaquin County Mosquito Abatement District

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April 9, 1990


Steve Scott
Chairman
Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission
511 Virginia
Lodi, CA 95242

Dear Mr. Scott:

Please be advised that the attached letter **from** Robert H. Peters expressing his concern **regarding** Division 15 of the proposed natural Resources Regulations was presented to the City Council at its regular **meeting** of April 4, 1990. Mr. Peters indicated that he *feels* such regulations violate the American heritage of private ownership and that **there** is neither need nor basis for such public involvement in the Mokelumne River area.

The City Council asked that this letter be referred to the Parks and Recreation **Commission** for **review** and **comment**.

Very truly yours,


Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

AMR/jmp

cc: Mr. Robert Peters
Mr. Ron Williamson, Parks and Recreation Director